

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| Inventor: | Smith et al. |) |
| | |) |
| Serial No.: | 10/527,032 |) |
| | |) |
| Filed: | October 6, 2005 |) |
| | |) |
| For: | CONDUITS AND METHODS OF FORMING |) |
| | |) |
| Art Unit: | 1722 |) |
| | |) |
| Conf. No.: | 5582 |) |
| | |) |
| Atty. Ref.: | 1171/42503/155-PCT-US |) |

STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant, by and through its attorneys of record, respectfully requests a report as to the status of the above-noted application. This application was filed on March 8, 2005, and accorded a filing date of October 6, 2005 under 35 U.S.C. §371, and, as of the date of this letter, no Office Action has been received and there is no "First Action Prediction" listed on the Patent Office website for this matter. The purpose of this letter is to ensure that an Office Action has not been misdirected in the mail and, if no Office Action has been forwarded, Applicant requests

an estimate as to when it might expect an Office Action in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Jan. 9, 2006

By: Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr.

Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr., Reg. No. 25,156

Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

Attorneys for Applicant

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,

BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.

105 West Adams Street, 36th Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60603-6299

Tel: (312) 704-1890